Are passing night. She little has of beauty's wealth; Only her priceless youth and health, Her broad, white brow; Let grows she on the heart by stealth, I scarce know how.

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She does a thousand kir sly things That no one knows; A loving woman's heart she brings To human woes; And to her falle the sunlight clings

And so she walks her quiet ways With that content

He sat up. He was not hurt, only stunned, and in a few moments he A life devoid of fame or praise, stood beside her. Her veil was down, -Pall Mall Gazette.

feet from him."

dear Horace?"

and he could not see her face. "How are we to get home?" she asked, pointing to the dead horse and broken carriage.

A tear fell upon his face. He opened

his eyes. The next moment he re-

gretted it, for he found his head on the

grass, and Mrs. Dayton at least ave

"Are you burt?" she asked, quietly.

the voice that had said: "Horace!

Had he been dreaming? Was this

Her voice trembled now, and as the wind blew aside her veil, he saw that her eyes bore traces of weeping.

Horace forgot his wager, forgot their awkward predicament, forgot everything but his love, and he poured it forth in broken, passionate words. Her heart throbbed high with ecstasy, for she was too great an adept in the art of flirtation herself not to be able to

tell the voice of real feeling. Yet, as he went on, the scene with Mrs. Harrington occurred to her, and she stifled back the eager welcome her heart gave his words, and said, coldly: "Enough, enough, Mr. Cooke! I am sorry to cause you the loss of \$500, but Mrs. Dayton cannot accompany the

European party as Mrs. Cooke.' Stung to the quick, Horace stood silent for a moment; then he said, fn a low voice: "I was an impertinent fool. Can you

ever forgive me?" "On one condition," she said smilingly. "Name it," he said, eagerly.

"That you pay your wager, own yourself beaten, and do not address one word of love to me until we return from Europe.' "I agree to the first two, but the last

is very hard," he said. taking her hand. "How are we to get home?" she asked again, abruptly:

"We must walk to the hearest house and then hire a carriage." I will not tell you what they said in that long walk, but I know Horace paid his wager, and confessed himself beaten and bore the banter of his com-

panions with great philosophy. How the last clause was kept I know not; but early in the following autumn Mrs, Dayton became Mrs, Horace Cooke.-New York Weekly:

Profitable Snake Hunting. John C. Reeves, of Portland, famillarly known as "Del," and having a National reputation as a rattlesnakehunter, has recently gained fresh laurels.

Last week thirty-six rattlers, ranging from fifteen inches to four and onehalf feet in length, were killed by him in the Somerset Mountains, situated east of Portland. Seventeen of various lengths were killed within a space of about fifteen square feet. Some of the large snakes had nine had but one or two. The snakes were

beautifully striped. Ten baby rattlers were found huddled together near their nest, which was in a rock crevice. Mr. Reeves captures his snakes by stealing up on them while they are then I shook so that I nearly dropped basking in the sun and pinning them to the ground with a forked stick four

or five feet in length. He then uses a Mr. Reeves finds much sport in rattlesuake hunting, and also finds it very profitable. One dollar an ounce is real-

den, followed by the dog and the man.

The prey darted through the lath fence:

Will Explore the Caspian Sea,

linstseff, well known by their explora-

tion of the White and the Black seas.

Tea in Berlin.

born a Princess of Wurtemberg, is now

engaged in the emleavor to "engraft

upon Berlin an up-to-date social life,"

o quote the words of a circular which

she has just issued to all the leading

ladies of the German capital, urging

erings are to be held, not at the private

houses of the ladies, but at the Kaiser-

one, so that tickets are to cost eighteen

Lessening the Seutence.

there were over 400 charges of theft,

doomed to 2500 years' imprisonment;

A judge in Vienna recently had be-

The hereditary Princess of Wied,

plan herring.

coming. ized from the oil. The skin nets him from twenty-five cents to \$2, and occasionally more for an unusually large one.-Hartford Courant. A Family Catch in South Dakote.

As 'we were going down town the other forenoon we saw a family and appendages catching a chicken for dinner. There was the man, the woman, the baby, the dog, and a great hullaground at his feet. Then there was the poising and the quick grab, which

straight at me.

shoot, the first bird had run over me and knocked me down, "I jumped up and ran, and I didn't stop running till I found you, and here

"Yes," answered the boy.

"Well," said the man, "if I were going to make up a yarn I'd try to have it reasonable, or end in something ex-

"But I didn't make it up!" exclaimed Pierre, indignantly. "All I'm sorry for," said one of the men, "is that he didn't bring the egg

As long as Pierre lived he was known as Big-Bird Pierre, for he could get nobody to believe him. Since his time, the lot was exactly right, however, more has been learned of

was frightened. The egg is larger than a football and would, it is calculated, hold as much as 160 hens' eggs. As for the bird, it matters of the toilet are to be found was of the same family as the ostrick, but was more than awice as tall, and as all must ave noticed in domestic proportionately heavier, so that, tower- tabbles. The rough tongue makes an ing as it did a man's height above the excellent brush, while the sharp claws tallest elephant, it must have been are on occasion employed by way of a startling bird to see for the first time

does not exist now, but Mr. Wallace, at hand when required, the great naturalist, thinks that all the indications are that it may have lived within the last two centuries.

PACER OF RECENT ORIGIN No Pacing Horses of Consequence in the

North Until 1878

Although pacing antedates trotting by several hundred years, and the first harness race horses on this continent were the Narragansett pacers, it is curious to observe that the popularity of pacing races is of comparatively recent origin. Descendants of the Narragansetts were seen in the States bornot by any means the least dering on the Atlantic Ocean years beexcited person in the fore, as well as at the time when trot-Prench fleet which cast and ting races first received popular approval on Long Island, at Boston, Philgascar, on a certain day adelphis Trenton and other points in some 500 years ago. Pierre was to go the Eastern States. These pacers, as a ashore for the first time in more than rule, were very speedy, but for some reason the public did not care for pacing races, and except at some unimportant meetings, where contests be tween local pacers and trotters were arranged, there were no pacing races blunderbuss borne upon his shoulder, of any consequence in the Northern

Notwithstanding the fact that the de velopment of the pacer was handicapped by reason of there being no classes made for him in the early his proposed that some of the sailors tory of light harness racing, still there should try to shoot a few of the birds were people in those days who loved of which the forest seemed so full; the lateral galt, and occasionally fitted for fresh meat to a sailor is one of the a horse of this kind for racing. Algreatest of luxurles, and it seemed a though until the past few years the pity to do without it when it was di- trotters acquiring standard records outrectly at hand. Her was an oppor- numbered the pacers many times, yet tunity which Pierre did not let pass. from the beginning the pacing gait has ever been the faster.

What effect the barring of the pacer from racing contests and the prejudice Pierre, blunderbuss in hand, and against him by prominent breeders and horsemen had upon the evolution of the An hour later, the three men hur- two minute harness horse years before ried down to the beach laden with he finally appeared is a matter of conjecture. But that many of the perwas they did not know; they had formers who are compelled to adopt missed him more than half an hour be an unnatural trotting gait by wearing so much weight on their front feet as greatly to handicap their speed development, would have made much lower records at pacing than they did at trotting there can be no doubt. Smuge gler was a natural pacer, and it was legs could carry him, he was tearing said could show two-minute speed at drew nearer the men on the beach But, as when he was at the meridian the pace when not carrying weight. When he reached the alarmed sailors, the more popular, he was made to carry of his prowess, the trotting gait was he sank, panting and exhausted, on fully two pounds on each front foot in order to make him trot, and yet with this burden he trotted a mile and acquired a record of 2.151/2, which was at least ten second slower than his known ability at the pacing gait when not thus handicapped.—Illustrated Sporting

When at home the pony is left very much to himself, and during his ear-I saw what looked like a large round lier years runs wild. But he is easily white stone in the thick brush. 1 reformed, and speedliy abandons his thought I might as well find out what | wild and odd ways and becomes a deit was, and made my way to it, and, I voted friend of man and an admirable give you my word, it was a great big worker. So great is their affection for egg — almost as big as a tar - bucket. the ponies that the islanders never kill land to-day. The old English black rat, they will go East and take up farms. I made up my mind to carry it back them, but when they are too old for a smaller and more elegant rodent, far It would be a strange thing, indeed work they allow them to return to the thought there must have been a big They still reach the age of thirty bird to lay that enormous egg, and years or more in their native land, and now as pets. there is a case on record-but it is probably apocryphal-of a Shelfie

10,000 in the islands, but, according to could be bought for from \$7 to \$30, but in 1871 males ranged from \$40 to with the egg I'd be eaten up in a sum, as they were not suitable for pit, mostly needed. Since then prices have for children's use. A yearling will now command from \$50 upward. The Sheltie cannot be worked until It is three maturing until it is aged eight or nine

> are at lower ebb at night than in the daytime," said an old watchmaker. "Would you believe that some watches especially the cheaper ones-are similarly affected.

> "You know a good watchmaker always wants several days in which to regulate a timepiece. That is because the only way to regulate it properly is to compare it with a chronometer at the same hour every day, Otherwise the variations in the speed of the

ticed told me this, and I thought the Idea absurd. We were working late one night, and he called my attention to a lot of watches we had regulated with him. It would have made such midnight, and every watch was slow. The better time-pieces had lagged be hind some seconds. The cheaper watches were a minute or more out of the way. Next morning every one of

Madagascar, the island where Pierre watch to make exactly twenty-four landed; and though nobody has seen a hours a day, but you can't persuade living bird such as Pierre described. It to make just sixty minutes in each eggs and skeletons of birds have been of the twenty-four hours. Why this found, and, judging from them, it is is so no one can tell."-New York

The Cat's Cleanliness.

The most fastidious mammals in among the members of the cut family, combs, all these invaluable aids to The aepyornis, as the bird is called. the further advantage of always being

> finical, not to say vain about her for matter. -London Mail.

PLAGUE OF RATS IN ENGLAND

FLOODS AND SLAUGHTER OF RAT KILLING ANIMALS THE CAUSES

Forerunners of the Rats That Came to America - Some Instances of the Little Animals' Pluck and Sagacity-How They Endanger the Public Health

anganga convenience, the havoc and tail, while others pushed his shoulders.

and overrrunning the haunts of meu A rat has been known to cross a In all parts of the country is a tale that swollen torrent in Scotland seated on has been told often enough during re- a swan's back. Other rats have made cent months, says the London Express. friends with dogs and fed from the One district after another has had its same platter. When the dogs were rat plague. Some towns and villages absent they would never feed, knoware even now in the midst of the ex- ing that the presence of their canine

. Although when driven desperate with hunger they will devour one another, almost human.

A Sussex clergyman has told how he Two reasons may be given for the saw a number of rats migrating from one district to another and in the middle of the company was an old blind rat, with a twig in his mouth. by which he was being safely led by

a younger rodent. Instances of rats leading blind comoutcome of man's foolish persistence rades by the ears to feeding places in killing off stoats, weasels, owls, pole- and placing food close to their muzzles have been observed more than once, animals which would assist him in This is more than many human beings will do for their weaker brethren.

> BOYS FROM CITY TO FARM. The Old Order of Things to Be Reversed, Professor Galleway Says.

Professor B. T. Galloway, chief of he plant indestry bureau of the Department of Agriculture, predicts that farming of the future will be done by boys from the big cities. He calls attention to the fact that the movement of the boys and young men from country to city has been stopping, and that the tendency now is from city to coun-

Professor Galloway is a great bellever in the possibilities of scientific farming. He knows a score of ways in which old farms which were worthless when worked according to old timeworn methods, may be made veritable gold mines by the application of a little sense and industry. He has made actual experiments in a number of cases in the vicinity of Washington, and can point to farms which a few years ago could be bought for the taxes or a little more, and which now are worth small fortunes, and are yielding all the way from \$8000 to \$10,000 a year. These opportunities, Professor Galloway thinks, will be appreciated more and more by young men who find it hard to get on in the big cities, and

If it should come to pass that young expert farmers of agriculture are being developed, should go East to apply them to the abandoned farms of New England and Virginia, and reclaim those now barren acres to profitable

husbandry. As for the movement of city boys to the country, of which Protessor Galloway speaks, we have examples of that tendency in our own State. There has been such a pressure for accommodations in the classrooms of the school of agricultre from the cities that they have been obliged, in justice to the real farmers' boys and girls for whom the school was established, to deny to any applicant the privilege of enrollment as a pupil who has not resided at least six months on a farm,-Minneapolis

Alaska a Garden.

Prof. Trevor Kincaid, of the Unihunger to eat anything that his teeth versity of Washington, an alert Western scientist, has been making a study havoe in game plantations and poultry of the valleys and mountain slopes of work, for which the Sheltles were farms, destroying eggs and eating the the Aleutian Islands. He first became young birds. He has been known to interested in Alaska at the time of the the egg, it set up an awful squawk. greatly advanced, and large sums are gnaw holes in the bodies of fat pigs, Harriman expedition. As a result of amazed the entomological world by the bewildering collection of insects he Istence on the nectar of blossoms. It was a revelation not only of the presence of unnumbered flower-hunting hymenoptera, coleoptera and lepidop-The carcasses of these rats have been | tera in Alaska, but incidentally it called the attention of scientific men to plague. A penalty of £2 hangs over the fact that Alaska, instead of being a wilderness of perpetual ice, was a vast, wild garden. Extending his investigations in subsequet trips to the Aleutian chain, Prof. Kincaid has made the discovery that in the valleys and slopes of those islands a number

"I am convinced," said he, "that our

The Walking Craze in Tasmania. The walking craze has apparently died out in London, but it was still in full blast at the antipodes when the latest mail was leaving. Tasmania has supplied a tragical case, says the London Chronicle. Forty competitors entered for a prize offered by a firm of whisky manufacturers. The route was to the summit of The Pinnacle, the highest peak of Mount Wellington, which forms such a pictureque background to Hobart, the Tasmanian metropolis. In spite of inclement weather the competitors started from the city at two o'clock in the afternoon clad in light walking costumes. Halfway up the mountain they encountered a heavy snowstorm. petitors frozen to death, others rigid with cold, some temporarily demented. and others who had lost themselves. Few succeeded in reaching The Pinnacle. The one who was adjudged the

hours and forty-four minutes. Chief Justice Story attended a pub-

Where'er she goes.

Yet nobly spent.

A Lost Wager

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SPFF777S O he has actually laid a ; me before we start for Europe. One, two, nearly three months," said Mrs.

laughing merrily. "Ali, me! he has mistaken me; I have had enough of matrimony, and my present life of freedom suits me."

"I admire the man's impudence." "He has never seen you yet, has he?" "No. Tell me exactly how it hap-

siding at dinner, I, of course, left the table after dessert; about an hour afterward I was passing through the hall, when I heard Mr. Cooke say: "So this charming widow, Mrs. Day.

ton, has vowed never to marry again. I want a wife, and, from your description, I think she would suit me. What do you bet I do not make her break her

"Five hundred dollars,' said Harry, " 'Done!' said Mr. Cooke. 'When our charming widow will jola the party as Mrs. Hugh Cooke."

"I went upstairs, but I determined to put you on your guard, for to-night, at our house, you will meet him." "Never fear for me. I'll have him at

my feet in a week," and again the silwere standing a few hours later in the former's brilliantly lighted drawing

side her, whose fine figure and dark, mind. aweet low voice beside the couple

and they turned. One quick glance passed between the the hostess passed on to receive other

"Stay, lady, let me tell your fortune?" said the gipsy. "No, tell my friend's. Mr. Cooke-

listen,"and she moved away.

offered his hand for her perusal. She was a startlingly beautiful ombroidered in the same way. The making at her scerel. body of the dress was of white muslin, make a full bow at the left side. A love!" turban of white was on the hair, which "Yet the holiest, highest feeling of balloo of a racket. The initial move ful figure, medium height, large black panion. eyes, a rich, clear complexion, with a clear color, completed the picture.

"to woo where you can---" The waltzers whirled in between the are in love. Every pretty face calls couple, and when Mr. Cooks again forth the protestation of the passion

looked the gipsy was gone. It was a you just tried to dignify. They love the cur humped his nose against it; the ing the leaves of a book. It was in a

"Will you not fluish telling my fortune?" said he, coming in.

She started. "Oh!" she said, "I dare not. My spell was so violently broken I am afinid to renew it."

'Afraid! I read your face wrongly. ! should have said the spirit shining through your eyes scorned fear." "80, while I studied your hand, you speculated about my face?"

"Could any one let such a face pass him and not try to read it?" A low, mocking curtesy was the an-

swer to the compliment. They stood an hour in the little room, and when Horace at length offered his arm to escort the lovely gipsy to the drawing hour could have been doubled or multiplied indefinitely.

"Mrs. Harrington," said Mr. Cooke, neeting the hostess in the room, "when is the irresistible Mrs. Dayton expected to honor us?"

"Why," said Mrs. Harrington, "you have the irresistible Mrs. Dayton hang- still, insensible, and she thought him ing on your arm. Has nobody introduced you yet? Let me do it. Mrs. head to her breast, calling his name. Dayton, this is Mr. Cooke-Mr. Cooke, Mrs. Dayton. Now I hope you know me!" she pleaded.

Mrs. Dayton's eyes were fixed upon the carpet, but there was a world of Dayton was not a woman to spend mischief lurking in them, if her partner many moments in useless grief. She could have seen it.

reputation of being irresistible." she said, at length,

carcle at the witty turns she gave to naw murmuring, tenderly: one's cherished direction, or, as they thought, silent admiration.

That only comes to sinless days
And innocent;

SEVEL AND SERVED SEE

By H. G. Staines "May I see you home?" asked Hor wager that he will marry ace, as the rooms began to thin.

"Sorry, but I am already engaged." "May I call to-morrow?" "Ah! he intends to commence his Dayton, leaning back and siege in good time," thought the charming widow, as she gave permission.

The next morning the beautiful and witty widow looked even more lovely than on the previous evening. She received her guest with quiet, easy grace, said her companion, Mrs. Harrington. and they chatted for some minutes on different subjects.

Then somebody made a remark upon the literature of the day, and from "Certainly! My husband invited his that they passed on to books. One cousin, Harry Vaughan, George Coats author after another was discussed, and this irrestible Horace Cooke to quotations flew about as thickly as dine with him yesterday. After pre- hallstones, and each was really trying to lead the other into deep waters. Mrs. Dayton's thought was:

"This man is no fool, in spite of hi impudent vanity." Mr. Cooke was thinking: "What a mind. Horace, that wager

must be won. It is worth more than \$500, my boy." From books they passed on to music, and it was an easy transition to the grand plane in the corner. Mr. Cooke took his seat at the instrument to recall party starts for Europe in May the to her memory a favorite air. His voice was good, his accompaniment showed skill and taste, and, bent upon

dazzling the widow, he sang with feeling and power, "Do you remember this?" he asked.

touching a few chords of a duet. She replied by singing the first notes very laugh rang through the drawing She gradually let her voice out in all its rich beauty, and his blended with Mrs, Harrington and Horace Cooke hers. He sang low, listening intently.

Ah, Mr. Cooke, who is dazzled now? At last he rose to take his leave, askroom. There were beautiful women ing and receiving permission to call had handsome men all round them; again; and Mrs. Dayton took up a but the star of the evening was not book, threw it aside, practiced a few there. It was a fancy party, and Mrs. moments, and stopped when she found Harrington, a lovely little blonde, in she was singing his song, walked out a piquant flower girl's dress, made and returned home, wondering why she quite a contrast to the tall brigand be- could not get "that man" out of her

handsome face suited well his dress. To say that their future intercourse I tell your fortune?" said a was pleasant is a dull phrase to describe it. Each being bent upon making a conquest of the other, their best powers were exerted, their richest speaker and Mrs. Harrington, and then treasures of wit, accomplishment and thought displayed, and somehow Mr. Cooke began to feel ashamed of his wager, and Mrs. Dayton wished she

had never seen Horace Cooke. It was a lovely day in early spring beg your pardon, Conrad-you will that he called to take her for a ride, and found her sad and dispirited. ir. Cooke's eyes were riveted upon Nothing would have made her confess his companion, and he mechanically it, but the gay little widow was in

love. They went out of the town, driving figure. Her scarlet skirt, short and through an avenue of tall trees, when full, was embroidered in gold with Mr. Cooke began to talk of love. It strong figures, and the tiny foot it left aroused the widow from her depression exposed was cased in a scarlet boot, to ward the thrusts she felt he was

"Love," she said, scornfully, "Bah! made full, but cut so as to leave the A schoolboy's first passion, before he neck and arms bare. A brilliant scarf leaves pinafores, is dignified with the was bound from the right shoulder to name. An old man's doting is called the big daughter, the ten-year-old boy.

fell beneath it in rich black masses the heart of man in his prime of power was an ear of corn, with which the almost to the wearer's feet. A grace- has no higher name," said her com- man gently and slowly strewed the "Man in his prime of power!" she repeated scornfully. "I'll tell you how it gave no return but a tail feather or so, "Your fortune," she added, as she is with men. From the time they walk | And then the cry: "Run him down!" dreamily scanned the palm of his hand, to school beside the hoydenish girl Instantly every one was in motion. until they are seventy they fancy they The young rooster cut across the gar-

long time before he saw her again; fifty times, and to the fifty-first flame but at last he found her. She was is offered the battered, worn-out heart through the gate into the barnyard, standing alone near a table, lazily turn- as if it were brand new and fresh." "You wrong us," he said, roused in the mother shook her apron and little sitting room leading from the his turn by her steady glance. "Though screamed. The small brother circled drawing room, and she was its sole oc- each admiration of boyhood and youth the haystack in pursuit, the big daughmay call forth a passing feeling, it is ter shoo'd with her every-day hat, the evanescent; and passes like a ripple on neighbors gaped out of their windows, deep water. But when the depths of On went the furious race until finally these waters are stirred by the hurri- the panting bird ran his head into the cane of real love, not calling for a re- haystack to get out of sight and was

turn, it at least merits sympathy and gobbled,-Elk Point (S. D.) Leader, comfort:" and he let his voice fall in a low, tender cadence. Mrs. Dayton felt uncomfortable. The laughing response that rose to her lips died there. She longed to tell him her belief in his doctrine. They were going slowly along, each intent and thoughtful, when the scream of a locomotive

startled the horse, and he dashed forward at full gallop. There was a rush, a crash and they were on the roadside-the horse mangled corpse, the carriage thrown room, he wished devoutly that the violently back several feet, Mr. Cooke insensible on the grass, and Mrs. Day- hydrobiological exploration of the Caston on the other side of the road, un-

injured. Mrs. Dayton sat up, and with a neryous, hysterical laugh, called her companion's name. He did not answer. She went to his side. He was white, dead. With a wild cry she raised his "Horace! dear Horace! only look at

Then she looked around for help, them to organize "5 o'clock tea recep-There was no house in sight. Mrs. tions from 4 to 6." These social gathsoon recovered her presence of mind. hof Hotel. The object of these "gem-So I have, it seems, the enviable Her vinaigrette was hanging at her uthlichen Tassen Thee" is a charitable

belt, and she tried its effects. Her companion was only stunned, pence. "A reputation so well deserved as and in a few moments he was able scarcely to merit repetition," was the to feel her band on his brow, hear her voice in his ear. He kept perfect! A number of other gentlemen were still, his eyes closed and his breathing this time collected around Mrs. Day- low. The most delizious ecstasy was fon. Her skill as a fortune teller was holding him quiet. The low, sweet He was convicted of all of them, and bow again called into requisition, and voice, which would never before speak if he had been convicted for the full many a heavy laugh rang through the one word of preference for him, was term of punishment he would be

"Horace! dear Horace! speak to my but the judge's heart melted, and to SHOP MIOPS

A GIANT IN FEATHERS.

The Experience of Young Pierre Char.onne on Madagascar. e.

John R. Coryell in St. Nicholas.

IERRE CHARTONNE Was chor in Rafala Bay, Madayear. The captain had promised that in the morning he would accom-

pany the men who were going to look for fresh water. The next morning, with his beloved Pierre stepped proudly on the beach, States until 1878. ready and anxious to meet the savage men and curious wild beasts he felt sure he was going to see.

Shortly before dinner time it was He entreated his commanding officer so earnestly to let him be one of the shooting party that consent was given,

three sailors started for the forest. but without Pierre, Where he fore, and supposed he had returned to

the beach. "Here he is now," suddenly exclaimed one of the men-And there, indeed, he was, hatless and in haste. As quickly as his short

through the underbrush; and as he could see that he was frightened. the sand. To their hurried questions he could only gasp out, "After me!" and point to the forest. Whereupon

they all gathered eagerly about him to hear his story. "After we had gone about two miles into the forest," he began, "I left the News, others, because I thought we would see more game in two parties than in

one "A little while after I had left them heavy; but while I stood with it in was on the under side, I heard a

the egg. "I got behind a tree near by and stooped down so I could see through the bushes what kind of a bird was

"I never saw such a thing in my life before! Maybe you won't believe me, came through the bushes that I thought it was a herd of cattle. And Government returns, the number is when it came to where I could see it, now about half. In the eighteenth each of its legs looked as big around century it was possible to obtain a

"It went directly to the spot where the egg had been, and then I was minute. But I didn't dare to move. When the monstrous creature missed Then I dropped the egg and ran in the

direction that seemed the clearest of pony, especially when they are wanted feet. "The bird ran, too, for I could hear it crashing through the bushes, and I expected every minute to be taken in or four years old, and does not reach its big mouth. By and by I couldn't run any more, and fell down, when years,-Hustrated Sporting News, five big birds similar to the one I had

alread seen came leaping along man changed his course and crashed "I lifted my gun, but before I could the baby fell down in the mud puddle.

> "Is that all?" asked one of the men, sarcastically, when Pierre had ceased speaking.

In a bulletin issued by the Society of Naturalists at St. Petersburg it is stated that a new expedition for the exploration of the Caspian Sea is to e sent out early this spring. It is a continuation of the Aral-Caspian expedition which worked some thirty years

ago. The party will include such ex-At this the sailors laughed. plorers as MM. Knipovitch and Lebe-The chief aim of the expedition is the plan Sea and the biology of the Casno wonder that the little French bey Times,

unexpectedly.

also estimates that six at 200,000 books had to do with his passing sentence he rook off 1000 years, are now annually used +

which lived to be a hundred years old. which a demand has arisen, the prices of Sheltie have increased in recent years. There has been for a considera-

Watches slower at Night.

"You know that the vital energies

watch will baffle his efforts. "The man to whom I was appren-

A healthy cat is not only clean but his personal appeaance. And moral themselves degeneration in pussy is accompanied his kind. A Brussels expert, M. Paul Otlet, by neglect of personal appoining. That . As for the good in him, there are . Fame follows merit where Everel estimates that from the invention of the dog is as dirty as a boy must re. many true stories. His intelligence goes." printing, in the middle of the fifteenth luciantly be confersed. He was the century to January, 1906, 12,188,000 first animal to be flowest-cated, and lifterent books have been issued. Me long association with man has perhaps withing a poultry yard, could conceive "To whatever heights judicial learn-

2000000 The has been far too prominent eggs on his stomach. Then several MOK HE "whisker'd vermin race"; ber to lie on his back and clasp the slarm it has created by Thus egg after egg was safely hidden appearing in hungry hordes in their burrow.

citement of it, and doubtless other friends meant safety. places will be duly visited by the furry pest. Dogs of a sporting bent are doing doughty deeds daily. Rat- in times of plenty their affection is catchers are finding a substitute for

old age pensions. present invasion of houses, farmyards, barns and poultry sheds by armies of

First of all, the steady increase in the number of the rodents during the last ten years or so is undoubtedly the cats, offers, buzzards, snakes and other keeping rats within reasonable limits.

Then, with perhaps more rats in the country, as a whole, than at any previous time in its history, the rodents have been washed out of their field and riverside haunts continually during the last twelve months and driven to the homes of men for food and shelter. What can be said on behalf of the

most universally detested animal on the face of the earth?

He is an agile and graceful creature, skilful in many ways, full of resource, Intelligent, a useful scavenger when he can be kept to that employment, full of complacent happiness and desperately plucky. When living undisturbed in his own haunts, the rat is an affectionate parent and comrade. Catch sight of a rat sitting at peace on his haunches, smoothing his whiskers, and it is a pretty spectacle. He is said to be cleanly in his personal habits, although he is always at home in the sewers.

His savage disposition is without doubt the result of the centuries of hunting of which he has been the victim. He was never popular, and has, therefore, always been hunted. One wonders what he might have been had he ever been given a chance. It is the brown rat that plagues Eng-

ess fierce and harmful, has been alfields and hills and live out the rest most annihilated by his own brother. my arms, brushing off the dirt that of their days in peace. Sometimes the The black rat was introduced into old animals, in their wanderings for England in the Middle Ages, coming rustling in the bushes, and then I food, will fall over cliffs and so perish; from the East in ships. He is the an-

cestor of all the fancy rats kept largely The brown rat also comes from the East from Western China, to be precise. He gradually spread over Europe Like every other good thing for and in 1730 he first appeared in England, baying been conveyed on ships salling from the Baltic. He has now overrun Great Britain, and been taken ble period a large export trade in the further westward by ships to America, but that bird made so much noise as it ponies, of which there were at one time in parts of which continent he abounds by the million. On one Jamaica sugar

plantation 30,000 rate have been destroyed in a year. as my leg, and it was as tall as a good Sheltie for fifty shillings (about seems to come amiss to him. Possibly small tree. And such a beek as it \$12), and the average price in 1809 was had! seems to come amiss to him. Possibly time and again driven by stress of frightened, for I knew if it caught me \$50, the mares fetching only half that can surmount. He is always working

obtained for choice specimens of the and destroy the soles of elephants' this voyage of scientific discovery he The Landon docks have always been a favorite haunt of the rodents. Over brought out of Alaska, thousands of 5000 have been killed in a month by them being species that depend for exthe official rateatcher. Formerly these rats were taken out alive and sold to dog owners for sporting purposes.

> found to contain germs of bubonic the head of any person who takes away a live rat. The carcasses are collected every

Happily this has now been stopped.

morning and cremated on the quayside in the presence of an official. The sewers of London were once swarming with the rodents, and the of kinds of succulent forage grasses. sewer men were in the habit of mak- grow in luxurious abundance. ing large incomes by catching the rats and selling them for sporting purposes beef cattle will ultimately come from at three shillings a dozen. Many a this interesting archipelago,"-Bookgrim encounter did these men have lovers' Magazine. in blind underground passages when several rats were brought to bay, and

it required no small amount of pluck to seize the savage vermin. When driven to extremity there is scarcely a fiercer animal existing than the brown rat. He is also a serious danger, for a bite from the garbage poisoned teeth of a rat has often meant death within a few hours. A desperate rat will sometimes daunt the stoutest bull terrier, and many a splendid dog

sham death, and be left for dead in the gutter. But when all is quiet he will recover himself and move away as fast as possible. The very worst that a rat can do is in attacking human beings. Tramps lying by the roadside, or in the rick yards in country places, have been killed by the rodents, and only too

often have hunger-pressed rats at-

In severe extremity a hunted rat will

has died from a rat bite.

tacked infants in their cradles, sometimes killing them. As a danger to health, as well as to property of almost every kind, the vat cleanliness and smartness possessing must be exterminated. Let the fact that he has never had a friend, that he has been constantly hunted to the life dinner in Boston at which Edward wilderness and driven to desperation, Evereit was present. Desiring to pay actuate with humanity those who set a delicate compliment to the latter, themselves to the task of thinning out the learned judge proposed as a volun

erge than he gottone one of their nume. hever got above one Story." - Success.

Search parties found two of the comwinner covered eighteen miles in two

teer toust: